

**Ref: PA/SCR/2025/4**

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# North Lincolnshire Council

[www.northlincs.gov.uk](http://www.northlincs.gov.uk)

Church Square House  
30-40 High Street  
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DN15 6NL

Dear Paul,

**Re: PA/SCR/2025/5 – Request for a second EIA Screening Opinion for proposed new wells and 600M underground gas pipeline- at Wressle Wellsite, Lodge Farm, Appleby, North Lincolnshire.**

**Town & Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017.**

Thank you for your letter dated 24<sup>th</sup> February 2025 requesting a Screening Opinion from the Local Planning Authority for the above development.

North Lincolnshire Council advises that in light of the available information and having regard to the location and nature of the proposed development and the selection criteria for screening Schedule 2 development as set out in Schedule 3 of the 2017 Regulations, the proposal would be unlikely to have any significant environmental effects. In addition, in accordance with Regulation 5(5), having regard to the location of the site and the nature of the development, there are not considered to be any features of the proposed development and measures envisaged to avoid or prevent what might otherwise have been significant adverse effects on the environment.

The proposed development although constituting Schedule 2 development is not considered to warrant an Environmental Impact Assessment.

Please find enclosed the council's screening opinion confirming that no environmental impact assessment is required to accompany your planning application for the proposed development.

Do not hesitate to contact me should you wish to discuss this matter further.

Yours sincerely



**Andrew Law**  
**Development Management Specialist**

## NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

### Screening Opinion under Regulation 6 of the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017

**Application Reference:** PA/SCR/2025/4

**Address:** Wressle wellsite, Lodge Farm, Appleby, North Lincolnshire

**Proposal:** Proposed new oil wells and 600m underground gas pipeline

**Has the LPA adopted a Screening Opinion for this proposal?** X YES  NO

North Lincolnshire Council adopted an EIA Screening Opinion for the proposed development under reference PA/SCR/2023/4 on 19 July 2023. Planning permission (PA/2024/275) was granted by North Lincolnshire Council on 13 September 2024 for the extension of the wellsite, involving the drilling of two additional wells, upgrading of production facilities, installation of a 600 metre gas pipeline connection to the national gas grid, and the long term production of oil and gas. That permission was subsequently quashed by order of the High Court on 8 November 2024.

The proposed development as assessed for the original Screening Opinion included 2 gas pipeline options , a c600m pipeline to connect into the national transmission network to the southwest of the wellsite, or a c6km pipeline to distribute gas to the Scunthorpe Steel Works. The 6km pipeline subsequently fell away and the development assessed as under PA/2024/275 and that is currently proposed as part of tis EIA Screening Opinion request includes only the single gas pipeline option for a c600m pipeline to connect into the national transmission system.

The EIA Screening Opinion presented below supersedes the previously adopted EIA Screening Opinion for the proposed development. This document provides the main reasons for the EIA screening decision in accordance with Regulation 5(5) of the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Regulations) 2017 (“the EIA Regulations”).

<b>1</b>	Is the proposal a Schedule 1 Project?	NO X	<b>Go to question 2</b>	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	Paragraph 14 is relevant. Extraction of petroleum would be less than 500 tonnes per day therefore not Schedule 1 development.
<b>2</b>	Is the application listed in Schedule 2 of the EIA Regs 2017?	NO <input type="checkbox"/>		YES X	<b>Go to question 3</b>
<b>3</b>	Is the proposal in a sensitive area as defined in the EIA Regs 2017?	NO X	<b>Go to question 4</b>	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>4</b>	Does it exceed the threshold and criteria in Schedule 2?	NO <input type="checkbox"/>		YES X	The proposed development exceeds the following thresholds:  <i>2(d) 'deep drilling' – the</i>

				<p><i>area of works exceeds 1 hectare.</i></p> <p><i>2(e) 'surface industrial installation for the extraction of petroleum' – the area of development exceeds 0.5 hectare.</i></p> <p><i>10(k) 'infrastructure projects' – (i) the area of works exceeds 1 hectare; or (ii) in the case of a gas pipeline, the installation has a design operating pressure exceeding 7 bar gauge.</i></p>
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**Selection Criteria for Screening Schedule 2 Development as set out in Schedule 3 of the 2017 Regulations.**

## 1. Characteristics of the Development

The characteristics of the development must be considered having regard, in particular to the following:

Size:

Does the proposal exceed the indicative sizes given in Planning Practice Guidance-Environmental Impact Assessments?  YES  NO

The Planning Practice Guidance on EIA provides an indicative threshold, with development above this size being more likely to require EIA. This can be used to help determine whether EIA is necessary.

With regards to 2(d) the PPG suggests that drilling operations involving development of a surface site of more than 5ha is more likely to require EIA. The site area of the surface site is less than 5ha in area (0.67ha).

With regards to 2(e) the proposed development is significantly under the indicative threshold of 5ha or more and would not exceed the 100,000 tonnes per year production threshold. The indicative threshold is for tonnes of petroleum and not oil, notwithstanding this it is forecast that Wressle 2 and 3 will produce 122,221 tonnes of oil by the end of 2039, should permission be granted in 2025. This equates to less than 10,000 tonnes of oil per year between 2026 and 2039.

Therefore, in respect of 2(d) and (e) the proposal would be significantly below the indicative thresholds set in the PPG.

In respect of 10(k), the proposal would not exceed the indicative threshold as the proposed pipeline is 600m in length, significantly below the 5km threshold set out in the PPG.

Cumulative Impacts:

Will the proposal be undertaken in conjunction with other development? X YES  NO

The proposal constitutes an extension to the existing Wressle wellsite. The existing wellsite comprises approximately 1.85ha with an access road, which has been in place since 2013. The proposed development includes an extension to the wellsite of 0.67ha as well as the laying of an underground pipeline 600m in length. The size of the proposed surface installation (0.67ha) when combined with the existing installation (1.85ha) amounts to 2.52ha, which still falls significantly below the indicative threshold of 5ha defined in the PPG.

The submitted EIA Screening Opinion request reports the Wressle-1 well would cease production in 2034 under the extant planning permission (ref. APP/Y2003/W/19/3221694). The proposed Wressle-2 and Wressle-3 wells would cease production in 2039, should permission be granted in 2025.

It is forecast that the existing Wressle 1 wellsite will produce 41,440 tonnes of oil to the end of 2034. This equates to approximately 4,144 tonnes of oil per year. The cumulative production from the wellsite as extended will be less than 15,000 tonnes per year whilst Wressle 1, 2 and 3 are all operational, significantly below the indicative 100,000 tonne threshold.

The new proposed oil wells will be of a similar nature to the drilling operation undertaken for Wressle-1 well in 2021 and the extension site will operate in a similar manner to the existing site. The impacts of the pipeline will be largely restricted to the construction phase.

No known significant environmental effects have resulted from the development of the existing wellsite.

Use of Natural Resources:

Will any natural resources be lost? (If no proceed to Production of Waste) X YES  NO

0.67ha of additional agricultural land is required in addition to that which forms the existing wellsite. There will also be natural resources used during the civil works on site and during the proppant squeeze operation should this be necessary.

Will their loss be significant?  YES X NO

The area of agricultural land lost as a result of the development is relatively small and will have no significant impact on the availability of high grade agricultural land in the area. This land is not of high biodiversity value. Furthermore, there will only be relatively small amounts of natural resources used in the civil works on site and during production enhancement processes.

Production of Waste:

Will the proposal generate waste (if no proceed to Pollution and Nuisances) X YES  NO

Both extractive and non-extractive wastes will be produced during the phases of the development. These wastes are expected to be produced in low volumes only. Extractive wastes will include:

- Drilling muds;
- Drill cuttings;
- Excess cement;
- Well suspension brine;
- Proppant fluids;
- Produced formation water; and
- Natural gas (emergency relief only)

Non extractive wastes are:

- Effluent from temporary site office/accommodation;
- General office/accommodation waste;
- Surface water run-off;
- Oil mixed with surface water;
- Oil rags; and
- Packaging.

It is considered that the level of waste produced from the development is unlikely to be significant or to result in any significant environmental impact.

Pollution and Nuisances:

Will the proposal cause any pollution/nuisance (If no proceed to accidents) X YES  NO

Will it be short term (during construction)? X YES  NO

The construction phase of the development is likely to generate noise, dust, vibration and light as a result of HGV movements to and from the site and the operation of construction machinery on site. These effects are typical of any construction project and can be mitigated through planning conditions to secure appropriate construction working practices and traffic management (CEMP & CTMP etc.), as was the case when the existing wellsite was constructed.

Will it be longer term? X YES  NO

As part of the current proposal it is intended to export any gas produced from the wellsite to the national gas transmission network. However, the existing emergency flare will remain on site and would combust gas volumes in the event of an emergency. The flare would only operate for short periods if at all and would ensure that hazardous gas is combusted, with small volumes of residual compounds (NO<sub>x</sub>, CO<sub>2</sub>) released as a result. It is not intended that the flare would be used other than as an emergency measure.

The existing wellsite has a number of embedded mitigation measures to protect against pollution resulting from the production of hydrocarbons on site. All waste containers and oil storage tanks have secondary containment (bunds). In addition, the entire site is underlain with an impermeable membrane, so in the unlikely event of a spill, or leak of polluting material, there will be no percolation to either ground or watercourse. A containment ditch system surrounds the site, with isolation valves for the proposed interceptor system. This ensures that there is no run-off of potentially polluting materials with rainwater. It is proposed to extend the existing mitigation to cover the extended site which will continue to protect against any contamination of land or water resources.

Groundwater monitoring boreholes have been installed on the site and monitoring of groundwater and surface water before, during and after the drilling of Wressle-1 showed no impact on water quality.

There are not expected to be any dust-generating activities, other than the temporary and short-lived movement of vehicles during the site reconfiguration works.

Noise from site operations is not expected to be significant or to result in adverse impact to nearby receptors. Monitoring of noise was undertaken during and after the drilling of Wressle-1 and showed that noise thresholds set as planning conditions were not breached through operations on site.

The area surrounding the site is sparsely populated, with few receptors, and the use of planning conditions in respect of noise in line with the existing site, will reduce the potential for nuisance.

Accidents:

A higher than average risk of accidents during construction?  YES X NO

The site is an extension to the existing wellsite and the construction operations proposed are limited and relatively straightforward. Construction activities will be similar to those undertaken on the existing site, which were undertaken without incident.

The use of standard best practice construction methods is considered sufficient in preventing a significant risk of accidents during the works for development of this scale and type.

A higher than average risk of accidents during operation?  YES X NO

Production operations will mirror those on the existing wellsite and are not considered to pose a higher than average risk of accidents.

Risks to Human Health:

Will the proposal increase risk to human health?  YES X NO

Potential for significant impacts as a result of contamination of water and air are assessed below and it is not considered that there will be a significant environmental impact in this regard.

The proposed development is not considered to pose significant risks to human health. The established wellsite is situated in a rural setting, amongst agricultural land and in a sparsely populated area.

The site is regulated through an Environmental Permit and will include a high degree of embedded mitigation to ensure that there will be no significant risk of contamination as a result of the proposed activities. This mitigation will mirror that already in place at the existing wellsite.

## 2. Location of Development

The environmental sensitivity of geographical areas likely to be affected by development must be considered, having regard, in particular, to the following:

What is the existing land use?

The Applicant currently operates Wressle-1 wellsite, which comprises 1.85ha and includes the existing wellsite and associated access track. The wellsite includes earth bunds and is enclosed by a security fence. It is proposed to extend the existing wellsite by 0.67 ha to facilitate the drilling of two new oil wells (Wressle-2 and Wressle-3). The Applicant also intends to lay one 600m underground gas pipeline, to connect to the gas network.

The wellsite is located approximately 1.6km to the northwest of Wressle and 6km east of Scunthorpe. It is located within an arable field to the east of Lodge Farm. The site lies outside of any defined settlement boundary and is located within the open countryside. Access to the site is via an access farm track from the B1208.

The site forms part of a wider landscape generally characterised as open countryside, consisting of arable fields enclosed by a network of drains, hedges and trees. Blocks of woodland are located to the west, north and east of the site, including Rowland Plantation to the west and north. The site access track runs adjacent to the buildings of Lodge Farm.

Is the Site in a 'Sensitive Area' as defined in the Regulation?  YES X NO

Is the site sensitive in another way?

(contaminated, densely populated, archaeology, landscape etc)

X YES  NO

If yes give details?

There are designated and non-designated ecological sites within 2km of the application site and in particular the route of the proposed underground pipeline. These include Broughton Far Wood SSSI and Ancient Woodland site and Rowlands Plantation Local Wildlife Site (LWS).

Ella Beck defined by the EA as a main river borders the wellsite. This watercourse would be crossed by the pipeline. The pipeline routes also cross a number of smaller drains and ditches. The site is located within a Drinking Water Safeguard Zone (DWSZ) and a Nitrate Vulnerable Zone (NVZ). The application site is underlain by areas classes as Principal Aquifer, Secondary A Aquifer, Secondary B Aquifer and Secondary (undifferentiated ) aquifer.

### **3. Characteristics of the Potential Impact:**

The Planning Practice Guidance on EIA provides an indication of the key issues to consider for each development type.

The guidance indicates that the key issues for development of this type are the likely wider impacts upon the surrounding hydrology and discharges to water, ecology, emissions to air, the arrangements for transporting the fuel, scale of development, and the risk of accident.

For underground pipelines, the major impact will generally be the disruption to the surrounding ecosystems during construction.

Climate Change and the downstream effects of the oil production is also a consideration, following the recent *Finch* ruling.

#### **Assessment of the significance of likely effects**

##### Hydrology and Hydrogeology

The majority of the site is located within flood zone 1; however a small part of the western side of the site is shown to be located within flood zone 2 of the updated EA flood maps (March 2025) and Ella Beck is shown within flood zone 3.. Surface water runoff within the site drains to the surrounding lined ditch, which is designed to accommodate the rainwater runoff from the site.

The site will incorporate a high level of embedded mitigation to match that on the existing wellsite. All storage tanks for produced and waste fluids will have secondary containment consisting of purpose built concrete and masonry bunds built to an EA approved construction standard. In addition, the entire site will have tertiary containment through the installation of a HDPE impermeable membrane. In the event of an accidental spill or leakage of polluting material, there will be no percolation to either ground or watercourse.

Surface water will also be managed as per the existing site, with a containment ditch system surrounding the site, connected to an approved surface water interceptor with isolation valves to facilitate the discharge of clean surface water run-off only. Water quality monitoring will continue through the life of the site to demonstrate the effectiveness of the embedded mitigation measures.

Furthermore, a Hydrogeological Risk Assessment was submitted in support of the quashed planning application (PA/2024/275), which assessed risks to groundwater and any mitigation measures

required. No objections were received from the EA or the LLFA with regards to flood risk, drainage or impact on water resources.

Additionally, controls placed on the oil production facility through the Environmental Permitting regime to prevent discharges to water will mitigate the potential for environmental impact in this regard.

For these reasons it is considered that the proposal will have no significant impact on hydrology or hydrogeology.

### Ecology

There are no areas on or immediately around the wellsite which are designated as important or sensitive for reasons of their ecology. The wellsite is also considered to be of low biodiversity value in itself.

The nearest designated sensitive ecology sites being Broughton East Wood LWS, approximately 460m south of the pipeline route; Broughton Alder Wood SSSI, approximately 600m southwest of the pipeline route and Broughton Far Wood SSSI, located 700m away from the site to the west.

Natural England has provided a consultation response on the Screening request. This response identifies that the proposed development has the potential for adverse effects on Broughton Alder Wood SSSI. Natural England has not assessed the significance of any impacts on this site and advises that the LPA should consider whether the development is likely to have significant effects on the interest features for which these sites are notified or the purposes of designation.

Consultation responses have also been received from the councils Ecology officer. An initial response was provided on 19 March 2025, which was superseded by a corrected response issued on 16 May 2025 following appropriate consideration of the documents and assessments, including the Ecological Appraisal, submitted as part of the linked planning application PA/2024/275. The corrected consultation response from the councils Ecology officer considers the potential impacts of the proposed development on protected and priority species and designated sites and includes an assessment of potential impacts on Broughton Alder Wood SSSI as advised by Natural England, as well as Broughton Far Wood SSSI, which is the nearest designated site to the application site. The Ecologist concludes that following the assessment of data provided by APIS regarding air pollution impacts on Broughton Far Wood SSSI and Broughton Alder Wood SSSI, and the ecological appraisal submitted for PA/2024/275, an EIA is unlikely to be required from an ecological perspective. The reasons for this conclusion are discussed below.

The application site is sited within a landscape of agricultural land and woodlands, with drains, hedgerows and scattered hedgerow trees that may support protected and priority species and habitats. The pipeline route would cross several agricultural fields, to the south of the wooded area to the west of the wellsite, and cross Ella Beck. The proposed pipeline does not cross the B1208 and therefore is not in proximity to designated nature sites such as Broughton Far Wood SSSI and Broughton Alder SSSI and irreplaceable habitats like ancient woodland. The c6km pipeline to distribute gas to the Scunthorpe Steel Works, which did cross the B1208 and ran adjacent to the designated nature sites was removed from the project following the initial Screening Opinion (PA/SCR/2023/4) and prior to the submission of the planning application (PA/2024/275).

Air pollution at Broughton Far Wood SSSI is addressed in the ecological appraisal submitted for PA/2024/275 as follows:

*“The screening thresholds and the applicable critical loads would both be temporarily exceeded in relation to nitrogen and acid deposition. However, the baseline loads of these pollutants are already grossly in excess of the critical loads (34.46 kN/ha/year versus 10 kN/ha/year for nitrogen deposition, and 2.44 keq/ha/year versus 0.989 keq/ha/year for acid deposition). In*

*comparison, the temporary process contribution from the Proposed Development is negligible (0.0040 kN/ha/year and 0.0294 keq/ha/year respectively). In this context, the temporary contribution from the Proposed Development is not likely to materially add to any adverse impacts resulting from the baseline exceedances.”*

The Air Pollution Information System (APIS) APIS provides Source Attribution for nitrogen deposited onto Broughton Far Wood SSSI and Broughton Alder Wood SSSI. The greatest contributor to nitrogen deposition at both sites is agriculture (livestock and fertiliser application combined). Local industrial sources, which are presumably only part of the “Others” category, provide a relatively minor contribution to nitrogen deposition. The proposal would thus represent a minor increase in what is already a minor contributor to nitrogen deposition on the woodland sites. This is shown on the pie charts at Figure 1 of the corrected response form the Ecologist.

APIS suggests that the designated features at Broughton Far Wood SSSI and Broughton Alder Wood SSSI are sensitive to nitrogen deposition. However, the contribution of nitrogen from industry is low compared to the very significant impact from agriculture. The woodland feature for both sites is currently in favourable condition and the calcareous grassland in Broughton Far Wood SSSI is very species-rich, despite nitrogen deposition from the existing blast furnaces to the west. Overall, the proposed development is not likely to adversely affect Broughton Far Wood SSSI or Broughton Alder Wood SSSI.

With regards to protected and priority species, planning application PA/2024/275, which is linked to this Screening request and has been remitted back to the LPA for redetermination is supported by an ecological appraisal report. The Ecology officer has considered the development in accordance with Natural England’s standing advice for protected species and has confirmed that the survey methods used and the survey effort deployed are appropriate for the site in question. The application site supports arable land and modified grassland next to hedgerows, woodland and Ella Beck (a stream). The surveyors found no evidence of badgers, bat roosts, otters, water voles, great crested newts, reptiles or significant invertebrate assemblages. As such there is considered to be no likely significant impact on protected or priority species.

Despite there being no presence at the current time, there is some potential for badgers, hedgehogs, nesting birds and water voles to become established on the site and as such sensitive working methods will be required during construction of the development. This matter can be addressed through planning conditions.

For these reasons, the potential for effects on ecology/biodiversity on the site and on designated and non-designated sites of ecological importance are not considered to represent a significant environmental impact that would necessitate an EIA.

### Air Quality

The proposed development is not located within any designated Air Quality management Area.

There is the potential for dust as well as emissions from plant and vehicles during the proposed construction works; however these impacts would be temporary in nature and over a relatively short period of time.

Effects during the operation of the proposed development would relate to vehicle emissions. However, a significant increase in operational vehicle trips is not anticipated and, therefore, a significant increase in vehicle related emissions should not be expected.

As a precautionary measure, the existing ground flare will be retained. The incineration of associated gas would result in the release of nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>), carbon monoxide (CO) and volatile organic compounds (VOC). However, flaring is only proposed to be carried out under specific (emergency)

circumstances and these process contributions are not considered to have a significant impact on air quality and will comply with Environment Agency criteria with respect to air quality standards.

In addition to the above, it is noted that the existing wellsite consented under APP/Y2003/W/19/3221694 was subject to a condition (no. 14) in respect of dust mitigation measures. The proposed development will be subject to the same dust mitigation measures that are already in place on the existing wellsite and a similar condition could be used to secure these measures.

Subject to appropriate mitigation, which has been demonstrated to be achievable on the existing site and the controls placed on the oil production facility through the Environmental Permitting regime, which is regulated by the Environment Agency, to minimise emissions to air, it is considered that the proposed development is unlikely to result in significant environmental impact with regards to air quality.

### Transport

No changes to the vehicular access to the site from the access track from the B1208 will result from the proposed development. Conditions 3 and 5 of APP/Y2003/W/19/3221694 (existing wellsite) relate to traffic and transport; these conditions were imposed to protect highway safety and to secure operational hours for HGV's. The estimated HGV vehicle movements for each phase have been outlined and are not considered to be significant; the Applicant has confirmed that no changes would be required to the HGV delivery hours currently in place for the wellsite.

The construction of the proposed development would result in an increase in traffic movements to and from the site. However, any increase in the number of vehicles using the local road network will not be significant and will be temporary in nature during construction and production-enhancement operations. The local road network is capable of catering for HGV traffic and there are no existing capacity issues that would mean that the additional traffic generated by the development would place an unsustainable burden on the network or result in highway safety implications.

The council's Highways officer has reviewed the proposals and has confirmed that no significant highway safety impacts are anticipated. They recommend that the proposal does not warrant an EIA on traffic and transport grounds.

### Cultural Heritage

The proposed development has the potential for physical and indirect impacts on the significance of heritage assets and their settings including designated and non-designated heritage assets, and on potential archaeological remains.

The council's Historic Environment officer has advised that there are unlikely to be any significant effects on designated or non-designated heritage assets requiring EIA.

The Scheduled Monument of Thornholme Priory is within 1.5km of the proposed extension to the wellsite. However, the proposed development is not likely to have any greater effect on the Scheduled Monument than the existing infrastructure at the application site.

Archaeological field evaluation was undertaken last year for the previous proposal at this site and no remains of archaeological significance were identified. Therefore, there is limited potential for archaeological impact.

There are listed buildings located within the wider area, but none within close proximity to the wellsite. Furthermore, the proposed development will be viewed as an extension to the existing developed wellsite. As such significant impact on the setting of built heritage assets is unlikely.

## Landscape and Visual Impact

The Site does not fall within an area designated either nationally or locally for its landscape value.

Landscape impact as a result of the proposed pipeline will be limited to the construction phase as the pipeline is to be buried. Therefore, this impact will be temporary and relatively short lived.

The extension to the existing wellsite will have a more permanent visual impact; however this will be mitigated by the fact that it is an extension of an existing site and will contain infrastructure and apparatus which is very similar in nature and appearance.

The surrounding landscape is broken up by blocks of woodland that provide screening of the site from wider views.

Furthermore, the only highly intrusive element of the development is the drilling/workover rig, which would only be on site for a short-term period for a number of weeks. Once the new oil wells have been drilled and the rig removed from site the remainder of the development will be low level and relatively non-intrusive, with any landscape and visual impacts being localised.

## Noise

The proposed development is approximately 484m to the Nearest Sensitive Receptor (NSR). Therefore, there is the potential of adverse impact from activities on site to the NSRs.

Furthermore, conditions 4-12 of APP/Y2003/W/19/3221694 in respect of the existing wellsite relate to noise. These conditions were imposed on the existing wellsite to protect the amenity of the surrounding area and nearby residential properties by imposing operational hours, noise limits and a noise management plan. The noise management plan required by condition 4 was implemented during drilling of the existing wellsite and noise thresholds of conditions 8-11 were not breached at any time. Similar conditions and noise management plan could be used to mitigate the potential noise impact of the proposed development so that there is no significant environmental impact in this regard.

A Noise Impact Assessment was submitted in support of PA/2024/275, which concluded that subject to the proposed mitigation the development would have no significant adverse impacts in respect of noise.

For these reasons the proposed development is not considered to result in likely significant noise impacts that would warrant EIA.

## Climate Change

The consequence of the Supreme Court decision in Finch is that greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from the burning of oil after it has been extracted should be assessed as an indirect 'downstream' impact, when considering the effects of proposals for oil extraction through the EIA process where that is the likely use for the extracted hydrocarbons. Consideration needs to be given as to whether there is a likely significant effect on climate change as a consequence of all direct and indirect effects, including GHG emissions from burning or using the extracted hydrocarbons.

The purpose of the proposed development is to extract oil for combustion. Therefore, the burning of the oil is considered inevitable and an indirect effect of the oil extraction proposal, and therefore fall within the scope of EIA.

The Applicant's EIA Screening Opinion request is supported by a Green House Gas (GHG) assessment comprising 2 reports. The first report covers the scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions associated

with the development of the Wressle-2 and Wressle-3 wells and the proposed national gas grid connecting pipeline, their operation in combination with the established Wressle-1 well, and the eventual decommissioning and restoration of the wellsite. The second report focuses on the Scope 3, category 11 emissions, which would arise from the use of fuels derived from the oil and gas extracted at Wressle. The report states that production from the wellsite is expected to cease completely by the end of June 2039.

A number of third-party responses have been received, which raise concerns with the GHG assessment provided by the Applicant. They assert that a singular approach to assessing the project's scope 3 emissions against UK carbon budgets is flawed and that such an approach fails to consider existing and approved projects and what space is left in the carbon budget.

The submitted GHG assessment has been independently reviewed on behalf of the local planning authority by Dr Jessica Salder. Dr Salder has confirmed that the two assessment reports submitted provide sufficient information to inform the preparation of the LPA's EIA Screening Opinion, providing sufficient evidence for a judgement to be made as to the need for EIA on climate change grounds.

The GHG assessment estimates the following production forecasts for the permitted and proposed Wressle wells:

- Wressle-1 – forecast production of 313,146 barrels or 41,440 tonnes of oil to end of 2034.
- Wressle-2 and Wressle-3 – forecast production of 1,044,957 barrels or 138,285 tonnes of oil and 5.264 billion cubic feet (BCF) or 122,221 tonnes of gas by end of 2039.

The first GHG emissions report considers the likely contribution of total emissions from the project – covering wellsite development, operation and decommissioning and the use of produced oil and gas – to the relevant UK carbon budgets as follows:

- Fourth carbon budget (2023-2027) period – the project would account for up to 0.0196% (0.382 MtCO<sub>2e</sub>) of the UK budget (1,950 MtCO<sub>2e</sub>).
- Fifth carbon budget (2028-2032) period – the project would account for up to 0.0241% (0.416 MtCO<sub>2e</sub>) of the UK budget (1,725 MtCO<sub>2e</sub>).
- Sixth carbon budget (2033-2037) period – the project would account for up to 0.0178% (0.172 MtCO<sub>2e</sub>) of the UK budget (965 MtCO<sub>2e</sub>).
- Seventh carbon budget (2038-2042) period – the project would account for up to 0.0069% (0.037 MtCO<sub>2e</sub>) of the UK budget (535 MtCO<sub>2e</sub>).

The greatest combined impact of the development on the UK carbon budget would occur during 2028-2032 (Fifth carbon budget), with emissions of 0.416 MtCO<sub>2e</sub> or 0.0241% of the UK carbon budget.

On a precautionary basis Dr Salder has also evaluated the projected total GHG emissions for the wellsite against the carbon budgets of the Yorkshire and the Humber and the East Midlands regions. As was the case at the UK level, the greatest impact from the extended wellsite occurs during the Fifth carbon budget period, accounting for 1.1% of the Yorkshire and Humber regional carbon budget, 1.5% of the East Midlands regional carbon budget and 0.64% of the combined regional carbon budget.

The Wressle-1 well benefits from an existing planning permission and is producing oil. Between 2025 and 2034 Wressle-1 is predicted to produce 41,233 tonnes of oil. Emissions from use of that oil will arise irrespective of any decision made in relation to the proposed additional wells.

The Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA) guidance on consideration of GHG emissions in Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) (2nd edition, 2022) suggests an indicative threshold of 5% of the relevant carbon budget be used to determine significance for those schemes with the potential to materially affect carbon budget compliance. For oil and gas development it is inarguable that extraction of hydrocarbons will result in the release of GHGs, likely as a result of combustion which could materially impact on carbon budget compliance. For the purposes of EIA screening of oil and gas development, where a judgement needs to be made about the likely significance of a development's impacts, the indicative threshold recommended in the IEMA guidance may be applied.

For the Wressle wellsite, the projected future emissions attributable to the facility, including downstream emissions from use of oil and gas, do not account for more than 5% of any pertinent UK, combined regional, or regional carbon budget at any time during the project's operational lifespan and would not significantly impact attainment of any relevant carbon budget. On that basis it is concluded that, whilst the proposed development would have adverse impacts on climate change, they would not be of a scale to qualify as significant and therefore EIA is not required on climate change grounds.

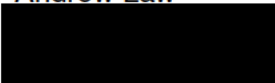
**Conclusion:**


Is an Environmental Statement required?

YES  NO

Further comments:

***Following consideration of the relevant selection criteria for screening Schedule 2 development presented in Schedule 3 of the EIA regulations, the Planning Authority conclude that the proposed development is not likely to result in significant environmental impacts. Therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred on it by Regulation 6(6) of the EIA Regulations, the Planning Authority hereby adopts an EIA screening opinion that an EIA is not required in this instance.***

Officer: Andrew Law  
Signature:   
Date: 16/05/2025

Authorised by: Rebecca Brown .....  
Signature:  .....  
Date: 19/05/2025.....